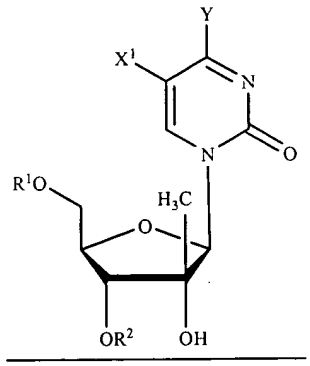
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a host infected with a *Flaviviridae* virus, comprising administering an effective treatment amount of a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1-10~~, wherein the compound has the formula:



wherein:

R^1 is H, mono, di or triphosphate or a stabilized phosphate; acyl, an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* is capable of providing a compound wherein R^1 is H or phosphate;

R^2 is acyl, an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* is capable of providing a compound wherein R^2 is H or phosphate;

Y is hydrogen, bromo, chloro, fluoro, iodo, OR^4, NR^4R^5 or SR^4;

X^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl, CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, CO-alkoxyalkyl, chloro, bromo, fluoro, iodo, OR^4, NR^4NR^5 or SR^5; and

R^4 and R^5 are independently hydrogen, acyl, or alkyl.

12. (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the virus is hepatitis C.

13-16. (cancelled)

17. (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is in the form of a dosage unit.

18. (currently amended): The method of claim 17, wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg or ~~0.1~~ 1 to 50 mg of the compound.

19. (original): The method of claim 17, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

20. (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the host is a human.

21. (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is in substantially pure form.

22. (currently amended): The method of claim 11, wherein the compound ~~or stereoisomeric or tautomeric form thereof~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is at least 90% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

23. (currently amended): The method of claim 11, wherein the compound ~~or stereoisomeric or tautomeric form thereof~~, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is at least 95% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

24. (currently amended): The method of claim 11, wherein the compound is in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of a tosylate, methanesulfonate, acetate, citrate, malonate, tartarate, succinate, benzoate, ~~ascorate~~

ascorbate, α-ketoglutarate, α-glycerophosphate, formate, fumarate, propionate, glycolate, lactate, pyruvate, oxalate, maleate, salicylate, sulfate, nitrate, ~~bicarbonate, carbonate salts,~~ hydrobromate, hydrochloride, di-hydrochloride, and phosphoric acid salt.

25. (original): The method of claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a hydrochloride salt.

26-42. (cancelled)

43. (new): The method of claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a di-hydrochloride salt.

44. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein Y is hydrogen.

45. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein Y is bromo, chloro, fluoro or iodo.

46. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein Y is OR^4, NR^4R^5 or SR^4.

47. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein Y is OR^4.

48. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein X^1 is H.

49. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein X^1 is straight chained, branched or cyclic alkyl.

50. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein X^1 is CO-alkyl, CO-aryl, or CO-alkoxyalkyl.

51. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein X^1 is bromo, chloro, fluoro or iodo.

52. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein X^1 is OR^4, NR^4R^5 or SR^4.

53. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein R^1 is H.

54. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 is H or acyl.

55. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 is an amino acid ester.

56. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 is a peptide.

57. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 is a carbohydrate.

58. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 is acyl of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl.

59. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 is acyl of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl.

60. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 is acetyl.

61. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 is a propionyl, butyryl or hexanoyl.

62. (new): The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 is an ester of an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.

63. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 is an ester of a naturally occurring or synthetic α, β, γ, or δ amino acid.

64. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 is an ester of an amino acid in the L configuration.

65. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein R^2 is an ester of valine.